GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:264
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017
River Pollution
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution level in various rivers of the country including those in Karnataka has increased in the recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, river-wise;

(c) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred on cleaning of rivers during each of the last three years and the current year, river and State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any plan to promote eco-friendly industries to control pollution in rivers and environment and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to control pollution of the rivers in the country along with the agencies involved therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) & (b)The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with the State Pollution Control Boards monitors the river water quality across the country through a network of 1275 monitoring stations on various rivers under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme. As per the report published by CPCB in February 2015, 302 polluted river stretches have been identified on 275 rivers based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels, a key indicator of organic pollution. The State-wise details, including Karnataka, are at Annexure-I.

(c) The details of budget allocation and funds released during the last three years and current year under NRCP, State-wise are given at Annexure-II.

(d) To control discharge of industrial effluents, CPCB and respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees monitor industries with respect to effluents discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. To improve the monitoring of compliance, directions have been issued to specific industries to install online 24x7 effluent and emission monitoring devices. Steps have also been taken by CPCB to promote low waste concept by grossly water polluting industries, including those located on the river banks.

The Government formulates and notifies standards for effluents and emissions from various industries, operations or processes for the protection and improvement of the environment. This Ministry, in consultation with CPCB has finalized in 2016 the re-categorisation of 244 industrial sectors based on the concept of Pollution Index (PI). The PI is a function of emissions, effluents, hazardous wastes generated and consumption of resources by the industry, and industrial sectors have been categorized as 'Red' (PI of 60 and above), 'Orange' (PI of 41-59), 'Green' (PI of 21-40) & 'White' (PI upto 20)'.

(e) Pollution abatement of rivers is a continuous and ongoing process. It is the responsibility of the State Governments/ concerned local bodies to set up facilities for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage for abatement of pollution of rivers. This Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). NRCP (excluding Ganga and its tributaries which is handled by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation from 01/08/2014 onwards) has covered polluted stretches of 31 rivers in 75 towns spread over 14 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 4517.82 crore. So far, Central share of Rs. 2066.98 crore has been released to the State Governments for implementation of various pollution abatement schemes and sewage treatment capacity of 2446.24 mld (million litres per day) has been created under the NRCP (excluding Ganga & its tributaries).

State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocation, also access financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including sewage treatment plants, in various cities/towns under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart Cities Mission programmes of Ministry of Urban Development and the Namami Gange programme of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

CPCB has issued directions under Section 18 1(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in April, 2015 to all the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees in the country for setting up of sewage treatment plants in their respective States. CPCB also issued directions in October, 2015 to 69 municipal authorities of metropolitan cities and State capitals, under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to ensure proper treatment and disposal of sewage generated for

abatement of pollution of rivers. In addition, CPCB has brought out specific guidelines on prevention and control of pollution in rivers and other water bodies from idol immersion.

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